he dissented *in toto* from the argument of Mr. Mayhew, that there was any thing derogatory to the commission in executing the works in the most economical and effectual way, and which, as public trustees, they were bound to do; many noblemen carried out their own works in the same manner. He was satisfied that there must be something inherently good in the new system, which had produced such results amid such constant and violent opposition.

Mr. Fuller thought that Mr. Mayhew's was the most extraordinary mode of reasoning he had ever heard. He had commenced by acknowledging that the saving under the new plan would be very great, but then on account of it being so derogatory to a commission appointed by the crown, he wished that immense saving not to go into the pockets of the rate-payers, but into the pockets of builders whom he was anxious to see appointed.

Mr. Robert Gunter was greatly surprised by the minuteness of Mr. Leslie's details of the works under 50*l.*, and thought great credit was due to him for laying before the court so full and so complete an exposition of the advantages which the public had derived from the working of his new system, amid so many difficulties and such continual opposition. He considered there was nothing in Mr. Mayhew's argument about its being derogatory to the court to adopt a system which was so beneficial to the rate-payers. He had done the same thing himself as to sewers on his own land, which the court had very properly ordered him to build, as they would not allow him to drain that property through the back of his premises, but required him to make a new sewer in front of them. He employed his own excavators; he purchased the materials, and had the works executed by the workmen he employed, and he saved a great deal of money, and he could not imagine there was anything derogatory in so doing.

The Hon. Frederick Byng said, he came to the court to defend the new system of doing the works under 50*l.* But he had no conception that Mr. Leslie could have presented to the court such a mass of facts, shewing that that system was working so advantageously for the public. His regret was, that his friend Mr. Mayhew, should have been the person to lead the attack. As to its being derogatory to the court, he might instance many noblemen who were doing large works on their own estates, and employing workmen and labourers. The Duke of Bedford was paying 460*l.* a week in that manner. He would vote against Mr. Mayhew.

Mr. Frederick Crace regretted very much that he did not arrive in court in time to hear Mr. Leslie's statements of the results of his system. There was one great principle he wished to instil into the mind of the court, that it was a court of justice and record, and he cared nothing about the pecuniary saving to the public. He maintained, that it was derogatory to the court to employ its officers and labourers in doing the works. Such a new system was perfectly unconstitutional. The Government did not adopt such a system, and therefore this court ought not.

Mr. Mayhew being called on for a reply, merely urged, that although he was bound to admit the saving was very great from the adoption of the new plan, he still thought the court should not be mere jobbing bricklayers, but employ some regular builders to do such works, and he thought that they would do so for an additional 5 per cent. The division then took place, and Mr. Mayhew's motion was lost, six voting for it, ten against it.

The court then refused to rescind another order of the 14th of November last, and Mr. John White's notice of motion to re-arrange the office of surveyor fell to the ground, he being absent. Mr. Le Breton's notice of motion, "That steps be taken to invite candidates for the office of chief surveyor, at a salary of 500*l.* per annum" was overruled by the chairman on the ground of informality, inasmuch as it was to give validity to the vote of a minority at the last court.

Several notices of motion were handed up to the chairman and read, and they were ordered to be considered at a court on Friday, the 6th instant, at two o'clock, in the following manner:—

7. Mr. Le Breton to move, at two o'clock, "That all the orders of the court of the 13th February, 1846, as to the surveyor's salary be rescinded, and that the salary of such surveyor be 500*l.* per annum, and that steps be taken to invite candidates for such office."

Mr. Mayhew to move, "That steps for the appointment of a surveyor be taken forthwith, at a salary to be now fixed."

Mr. Cumberlege to move, as an amendment upon the above motion, "That Mr. Phillips be forthwith appointed, at a salary of 250*l.* per annum, to the office of chief surveyor, on a trial of six months, on account of the vacancy which has so long subsisted in that office, and that all orders of court which interfere with this appointment be rescinded."

Mr. Kendall to move, "That Mr. Hawkins, the late surveyor, be appointed as the chief surveyor, at a salary of 450*l.* per annum."

Mr. Mayhew begged to inform the court, that he would not lend himself to any factious opposition to the new plan. That having been fairly beaten to-day, he would give every assistance in his power to carry it out, and, further, that he would support by his vote the immediate appointment of Mr. Phillips to the office of surveyor to the court. The court then adjourned to the 6th of March.

FOREIGN ARCHITECTURAL AND COLLATERAL INTELLIGENCE.

Further Industrial Legislating in France.—The Upper House have, of late, discussed the subject of the *Law of Patents*. Victor Hugo and Guy Lussac were amongst the debaters. Government are anxious to *facilitate*, as much as possible, the obtaining of patents, which, in those branches of *industry*, which approach the *arts*, are of great importance to the discoverer. It was stated in the House of Peers, that one of the chief brass-founders in France, had established a collection of models at the cost of 500,000 francs (20,000*l.*). In this, and similar cases, patents of *thirty* years' duration were considered nothing but equitable. The third paragraph of the bill is important. "No subject derived from a design, picture, or sculpture, can be embodied in a model or design of manufacture, without entitling the artist to the benefits, enacted by law of 19th July, 1793." A sliding scale of patents, viz. those of five, ten, and fifteen, or thirty years duration, as proposed in the bill, seems to meet all wishes.—*Siècle.*

The Fire-brigade at Paris.—For the last few days, a lantern with red glass has been lighted before the Home Office, close to a station of the fire brigade, with the inscription in white: "*Sapeurs Pompiers.*" It is intended to place similar lanterns at the sixty or seventy fire-brigade stations of the French Metropolis, that persons searching for aid in case of fire, may see them at a great distance. (Fas est immo—ab *amico* discere.)

The Astronomical Observatory at Athens—founded by the liberality of the Vienna banker, Mr. Sina, has been completed. The building is situate on the so-called hill of the Nymphs, erected in the antique Greek style, and presents an altogether monumental appearance. The main entrance will be ornamented by two colossal candelabra, after the designs of Profs. Schauber and Hansen, who are also the architects. The candelabra will be executed in Pentelic marble by Mr. Siegel, to whom is owing the colossal bronze lion erected at Pronia, near Nauplia.

Museum of National Antiquities at Cairo.—Ali Pasha seems willing to follow the example of his colleague at Constantinople, and H. H. has ordered to disencumber the Temple of Enoch at his expense. Such administrative precautions have become necessary even in Egypt, where nature and men (since Cambyses) have combined to destroy every thing as much as they could. Egyptian monuments, after having been used for the construction of other miserable patch buildings—have been, altogether used as quarries, for making lime, &c. Complaints against travellers, also, have become pretty numerous of late, and it is stated, that a German traveller has committed savage mutilations in the sepulchres of Biban and Moluk.—*Jour. des Débats.*

The new Mole at Venice.—That structure, which begins on the south point of the Austrian *Littorale*, and extends 6,700 feet straight into the sea, was first constructed, by immense blocks of rock (conveyed thither in vessels from Istria) being sunk in the sea, the basis of which construction was ninety feet broad, and thirty-eight feet high. Several millions of lire had been already expended, and many more seemed to be necessary, for making this dike secure, in the midst, as it were, of the Adriatic, and the floods actuated by the *Sirocco*—which had already, during the progress of the work, destroyed part thereof. At this period, however, *Nature* came to the aid of Art, and formed, on the north side of the so far completed foundation, a sand-bank, which, by-and-by, attained that extent and solidity, that it completely removed any further apprehension on the safety of the work. On the south side of the breakwater also, where a canal for the entering of the harbour was to be dug, the stream of water had so much strengthened, that it not only made unnecessary a second projected dike, to run parallel to the first, but has done the work of the most powerful steam-*baggers*, and has, already, swept away the sand so far, as to deepen the passage of the canal to the extent of four feet. Thus, the brig *Venezia* was the first, which, of late, entered the harbour close to the breakwater, without being obliged to make those, formerly required, circuits. Shortly, therefore, this gigantic structure will be completed, vieing with the Murazzi, which, indeed, it may be said to surpass. The latter were backed by the shore, which served them as an indistructible support and foundation, while the new breakwater rises up from the very bottom of the sea, with nothing but its own intrinsic support.—*Binzer's Venedig.*

Project of a Railway Society in Germany.—This idea has been of late started at Stuttgard by the editors of the railway gazette (*Eisenbahn Zeitung*), Messrs. Etzel and Klein, and one of their late numbers calls upon all persons interested in German railways, to join and aid that undertaking. The aim of the society to be, "advancement of the science of railroads by the exchange of ideas, observations, and experiments." An annual meeting at a place previously fixed, is intended to accomplish the same object, as similar societies for the improvement of other branches of science.

Large Public Baths at Vienna.—Last month a building was opened in the Austrian metropolis, which besides its ornamental features, will be a great accommodation to the mass of the people. It consists of a huge hall, which, according to the seasons, can be used as a tepid bath, a cold swimming bath, or as a dancing place, able to accommodate a company of 1,500 persons. When used in the former capacity, a huge tank of cast-iron, capable of containing 18,000 barrels of water (from the Danube) has been provided for. The architects are Messrs. Sicard and Van der Null—who have also, jointly, made an extensive tour in Italy; the latter being author of the work, "Ideas on the Art-relation of the Ornament to the Main Form." Another similar establishment is projected at Baden; warm thermal baths near Vienna. It will be an open public bath, into which the water of the therms will be introduced, keeping it at a constant temperature of 19° Réaumur.—*Allg. Zeit.*

New Picture Gallery at Dresden.—The project of this structure, mentioned in a former number of this journal, has been adopted by the Saxon chambers, and 300,000 dollars voted for that purpose. The building will (very judiciously) form the fourth unfinished wing of the splendid *Zwinger*, at a distance of 150 yards both from the royal palace and the theatre. The houses of the so-called Italian village will be removed, and Dresden thus possess a splendid square, on which its most prominent buildings will be combined.

J. L——r.

Windsor Castle.—As we anticipated, much inconvenience has been caused by not empowering some person in Windsor to issue tickets of admission to view the state apartments. There is reason to expect this will shortly be done. "A Companion through the State Apartments of Windsor" has been prepared by the directions of Prince Albert, and is sold for one penny!—expressly at this price, as some say, at his Royal Highness's desire.

New District Surveyor.—Mr. Robert Warton has been appointed by the magistrates of Middlesex to the district-surveyorship of Shoreditch and Norton Folgate.

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